

Glossary

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Ad Hoc Reports	Unscheduled SSCR reports used to report student status enrollment changes within 30 days of the change unless an SSCR cycle is scheduled within 60 days. Changes may be submitted on the NSLDS web page or in a Submittal File created with EDEExpress or other software.
Batch	A group of records assembled into one file for processing.
Byte	Unit of electronic storage that represents one character, such as a letter or number.
CICS	Customer Information Control System. CICS is IBM software used by NSLDS for online transactions.
CSC	Customer Service Center.
Data Provider	Organization (Guaranty Agency, servicer, or school) that holds the active loan. Data providers are accountable for information submitted to NSLDS. Only data providers are able to modify or update student identifiers in student loan records.
Database	A structured collection of data.
Deferment	A temporary period, established by law, that exempts a student from loan repayment.
Detail Record	A record that contains student enrollment information.
ED	United States Department of Education.
EDConnect	Software provided by ED enabling use of the Title IV WAN Store-and-Forward Facility from a PC.
EDEExpress	PC software provided by ED that allows schools to manage Title IV student financial aid application data and SSCR files.
FDL, FDLP	Federal Direct Loan, Federal Direct Loan Program. Formerly FDSL (Federal Direct Student Loan), FDSL (Federal Direct Student Loan Program). See Federal Direct Loan Program.
Federal Direct Loan Program	William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program. A program providing direct financing and delivery of loan funds to eligible borrowers to cover postsecondary education costs. Direct Loans include the Federal Direct Stafford Loan, the Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan Program, the Federal Direct PLUS Loan Program, and the Federal Direct Consolidation Loan Program.

FFEL	Federal Family Education Loan. Loans included in FFEL are Federal Stafford Loans (subsidized and unsubsidized), PLUS, and loans made under the predecessor Guaranteed Student Loan Program.
Field	A data area used for a specific piece of information; the smallest structure in a record (e.g., SSN is a field in a student enrollment record).
File	A group of records (e.g., enrollment records) or a collection of data (e.g., electronic document) that is given a name and treated as a unit.
Grace Period	The six-month period immediately following a student's enrollment during which interest continues to be paid by the federal government and the student does not have to begin repayment.
Guaranty Agency (GA)	An organization established by the Department of Education to administer key aspects of Title IV loan processing. In the SSCR process, GAs receive school enrollment information from NSLDS on a weekly basis and pass it onto the loan holder or servicer.
Header Record	A record at the beginning of a file that contains identifying information for the records that follow.
IAM	Integrated Application Menu. The IAM allows a Title IV WAN user to toggle between various functions without ending and reestablishing sessions.
Identifier	A field containing data that identifies the record or student.
Mainframe	A large computer to which other computers and terminals may be connected.
Megabyte (MB)	A unit of measure equal to one million bytes. MB is a measure of how much data can be stored on a hard drive in a PC's memory.
NET*CONNECT	Software provided by ED to connect directly to NSLDS from a PC for online processing.
Network	A set of computers that are electronically connected.
NSLDS	National Student Loan Data System. As a Title IV automated system, NSLDS is a national database of information about loans and other financial aid awarded to students under Title IV.
Online	Direct communication with a computer reached through telephone lines. While online to NSLDS through the Title IV WAN or the NSLDS web page, you can read and update the actual data stored at the central NSLDS computer. There is no batch or delayed processing before the records are changed.

Operating System	The software (set of computer instructions) that controls computer operations.
RAM	Random Access Memory. RAM is memory used to load and execute programs. The amount of RAM in your computer determines the number and size of programs that can run simultaneously. RAM and the size of your programs determine how fast programs will run.
Record	A group of related fields stored electronically and treated as a unit of data.
Record Layout	The sequence and definitions of fields in a record.
Roster	A list of students from a Guaranty Agency or school.
Servicer	An organization or company providing SSCR processing on behalf of schools. The servicer completes processing, but the school retains responsibility for SSCR compliance.
SSCR	Student Status Confirmation Report, or Student Status Confirmation Reporting.
SSCR Cycle	One complete pass through the SSCR process, from receipt of the SSCR Roster File through receipt of the final Error Notification File showing that all records have been accepted.
SSN	Social Security Number.
Store-and-Forward Facility	Temporary storage of data for later transmission to the destination computer.
Telecommunication	The transmission of data between computer systems and remote devices over a data transmission line.
Title IV	A part of the Higher Education Act of 1965 that authorized various student financial aid programs.
Title IV Wide Area Network (WAN)	Network linking thousands of nodes, or destination points, across the United States, its territories, and ED-designated foreign countries to the Title IV student aid processing and delivery system. Destination points communicate with the Title IV WAN using a PC or mainframe computer to transmit and receive data.
Trailer Record	A record at the end of a file that contains data related to the preceding Detail Records.
WAN	Wide Area Network. A WAN is a set of widely separated computers that are electronically connected.
Workstation	A terminal or PC at which a user works; usually connected to a mainframe or a network.

